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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/819,816	03/29/2001	Tsutomu Arai	019519-303	1449

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EXAMINER

AHMED, SHEEBA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	1773

DATE MAILED: 08/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/819,816	ARAI ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Sheeba Ahmed	1773	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2003 and 03 February 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 19-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 19-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on February 3, 2003 (Paper No.9) has been entered.

Claims 1-18 have been cancelled and new claims 19-27 are now pending.

Claim Language

2. Claim 27 is dependent on claim 19 and refers to "the low refractive index layer". Should claim 27 be appropriately dependent on claim 26 to provide proper antecedent basis for the phrase "the low refractive index layer"?

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Suga et al. (US 5,853,801).

Suga et al. discloses a process for the preparation of an optical compensatory sheet which improves the image contrast and viewing angle of a liquid crystal display (Column 1, lines 7-11). The process entails feeding a transparent film, coating a coating liquid of a resin on the surface of the transparent film to form a transparent resin layer, subjecting the transparent resin layer to rubbing treatment by the use of a rubbing roller to impart orientation property to the transparent resin layer (Column 8, lines 5-17). Subsequently, dust on the surface of the orientation layer is removed using a surface dust-removing machine (Column 8, lines 54-57). The rate of rotation of the rubbing roller can be adjusted in the range of less than 1,000 rpm. The film is moved at a constant tension and a constant rate. The outer diameter of the rubbing roller is in the range of 80-500mm. The rotation number of the rubbing roller is in the range of 500-1500 rpm and the tension in the film is in the range of 1 to 2N/1cm (film width). The rate of movement of the film is 6 to 60 m/min (Column 11, lines 1-45). All limitations of claims 19-21 are disclosed in the above reference.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Murata et al. (US 6,074,741) in view of Suga et al. (US 5,853,801).

Murata et al. disclose an antiglare material, suitable for use in liquid crystal displays, comprising a transparent substrate provided with a surface layer on one or both sides and is formed from a UV curing resin containing at least an epoxy compound and beads of resin having a particle size of 0.5 to 6 microns (Column 3, lines 1-10). The resin beads may be formed of crosslinked acrylic resin wherein methyl methacrylate is preferred (Column 7, lines 33-43). The thickness of the surface layer is 1 to 5 microns (Column 8, lines 36-38).

Murata et al. do not specifically state that the surface their surface layer is subjected to rubbing.

However, Suga et al. disclosed a process for the preparation of an optical compensatory sheet, which improves the image contrast and viewing angle of a liquid crystal display (Column 1, lines 7-11). The process entails feeding a transparent film, coating a coating liquid of a resin on the surface of the transparent film to form a transparent resin layer, subjecting the transparent resin layer to rubbing treatment by the use of a rubbing roller to impart orientation property to the transparent resin layer (Column 8, lines 5-17). Subsequently, dust on the surface of the orientation layer is removed using a surface dust-removing machine (Column 8, lines 54-57). The rate of rotation of the rubbing roller can be adjusted in the range of less than 1,000 rpm. The film is moved at a constant tension and a constant rate. The outer diameter of the rubbing roller is in the range of 80-500mm. The rotation number of the rubbing roller is in the range of 500-1500 rpm and the tension in the film is in the range of 1 to 2N/1cm (film width). The rate of movement of the film is 6 to 60 m/min (Column 11, lines 1-45).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to rub the surface of the surface layer disclosed by Murata et al. given that Suga et al. specifically disclose that subjecting a resin layer to rubbing treatment by the use of a rubbing roller imparts orientation property to the resin layer.

5. Claims 26 and 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida et al. (WO97/30021) in view of Suga et al. (US 5,853,801).

Yoshida et al. disclose fluorine-containing polyfunctional methacrylates composition that can be used for preparing a low refractivity material for a reflection reducing film. The reflection reducing film is composed of a transparent substrate, a layer of low refractivity material having a refractive index of 1.35 to 1.49 and a material layer there between having a refractive index of 1.55 or higher.

Yoshida et al. do not specifically state that the surface their layer of low refractivity material having a refractive index of 1.35 to 1.49 or the material layer having a refractive index of 1.55 or higher is subjected to rubbing.

However, Suga et al. disclosed a process for the preparation of an optical compensatory sheet, which improves the image contrast and viewing angle of a liquid crystal display (Column 1, lines 7-11). The process entails feeding a transparent film, coating a coating liquid of a resin on the surface of the transparent film to form a transparent resin layer, subjecting the transparent resin layer to rubbing treatment by the use of a rubbing roller to impart orientation property to the transparent resin layer (Column 8, lines 5-17). Subsequently, dust on the surface of the orientation layer is

removed using a surface dust-removing machine (Column 8, lines 54-57). The rate of rotation of the rubbing roller can be adjusted in the range of less than 1,000 rpm. The film is moved at a constant tension and a constant rate. The outer diameter of the rubbing roller is in the range of 80-500mm. The rotation number of the rubbing roller is in the range of 500-1500 rpm and the tension in the film is in the range of 1 to 2N/1cm (film width). The rate of movement of the film is 6 to 60 m/min (Column 11, lines 1-45).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to rub the surface of their layer of low refractivity material having a refractive index of 1.35 to 1.49 or the material layer having a refractive index of 1.55 or higher as disclosed by Yoshida et al. given that Suga et al. specifically disclose that subjecting a resin layer to rubbing treatment by the use of a rubbing roller imparts orientation property to the resin layer.

6. Claims 22 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suzuki et al. (US 6,033,743) in view of Suga et al. (US 5,853,801).

Suzuki et al. disclose an antireflection film used in a liquid crystal display and comprising a transparent substrate and at least one resin layer comprising a resin composition containing ultrafine particles and a polyfunctional acrylate having three or more acrylol groups (Column 1, lines 60-68 and Column 4, lines 35-43). Examples of the ultrafine particles include ITO and oxides of Zn, Sn and Ti (Column 6, lines 50-63).

Suzuki et al. do not specifically state that the surface their resin layer is subjected to rubbing.

However, Suga et al. disclosed a process for the preparation of an optical compensatory sheet, which improves the image contrast and viewing angle of a liquid crystal display (Column 1, lines 7-11). The process entails feeding a transparent film, coating a coating liquid of a resin on the surface of the transparent film to form a transparent resin layer; subjecting the transparent resin layer to rubbing treatment by the use of a rubbing roller to impart orientation property to the transparent resin layer (Column 8, lines 5-17). Subsequently, dust on the surface of the orientation layer is removed using a surface dust-removing machine (Column 8, lines 54-57). The rate of rotation of the rubbing roller can be adjusted in the range of less than 1,000 rpm. The film is moved at a constant tension and a constant rate. The outer diameter of the rubbing roller is in the range of 80-500mm. The rotation number of the rubbing roller is in the range of 500-1500 rpm and the tension in the film is in the range of 1 to 2N/1cm (film width). The rate of movement of the film is 6 to 60 m/min (Column 11, lines 1-45).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to rub the surface of the resin layer disclosed by Suzuki et al. given that Suga et al. specifically disclose that subjecting a resin layer to rubbing treatment by the use of a rubbing roller imparts orientation property to the resin layer.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-27 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheeba Ahmed whose telephone number is (703)305-0594. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Thibodeau can be reached on (703)308-2367. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-5408 for regular communications and (703)305-3599 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)306-5665.


Sheeba Ahmed
Art Unit 1773
August 7, 2003